
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IMPLEMENT A SCHEDULE
OF REDUCED WATER TOLL RATES AND CHARGES THAT DIFFERENTIATES
AMONG DIFFERENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM AREAS AND AGRICULTURAL
USERS TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF HAWAII-
GROWN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES THROUGH INCREASED USE OF
IRRIGATION WATER.

1 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii recognizes the importance of a
2 self-sufficient and sustainable economy; and
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4 WHEREAS, approximately ninety per cent of all food consumed
5 in Hawaii is imported into the State; and
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7 WHEREAS, although agricultural products are grown in
8 Hawaii, the welfare of Hawaii's people will be enhanced by
9 developing agricultural production and processing as fully as
10 possible, including the growing and processing of agricultural
11 crops, the production of livestock and poultry, aquaculture and
12 aquaponics, and the production and processing of other
13 agricultural products; and
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15 WHEREAS, expanding Hawaii's agricultural sector, with the
16 resulting local purchases of Hawaii-grown and processed
17 agricultural products, would significantly benefit the State's
18 economy, revitalize Hawaii's agricultural sector, and
19 contribute to job creation and career opportunities for
20 farmers, producers of agricultural products, ranchers, and
21 others engaged in ancillary agricultural businesses; and
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23 WHEREAS, Hawaii has substantial natural water resources on
24 each of the islands that are not currently being effectively
25 used and conserved for agricultural purposes, but that can, on a
26 sustainable basis, be used in greater quantities to expand and
27 enhance Hawaii's agricultural sector and production; and
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1 WHEREAS, on the island of Hawaii, the high cost of water
2 delivery is causing a hardship on farmers growing, and desiring
3 to grow, agricultural crops and poultry, ranchers engaged in the
4 production of livestock, and others desiring to develop
5 aquaculture and aquaponics, thereby making it difficult to
6 continue, or undertake, a sustainable agricultural business and
7 therefore adversely affecting the island of Hawaii's
8 agricultural productivity; and
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10 WHEREAS, existing irrigation systems provide water in
11 different areas on the island of Hawaii, and the costs of
12 operating and maintaining these systems differ depending upon
13 their location; and
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15 WHEREAS, users of these irrigation systems pay water toll
16 rates and charges for the delivery of water that are uniform
17 state-wide, which imposes hardships on farmers, ranchers, and
18 others on the island of Hawaii; and
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20 WHEREAS, the existing water toll rates and charges do not
21 take into account the levels and amounts that are appropriate
22 for these different irrigation systems in these different
23 locations on the island of Hawaii in order to promote the
24 increased agricultural and livestock and poultry production in
25 these different areas, and do not take into account the
26 different classes of users who often use different amounts of
27 water for agricultural production; and
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29 WHEREAS, the Board of Agriculture, under chapters 141, 167
30 and 168, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is authorized and empowered to
31 develop irrigation systems and to set water toll rates and
32 charges; and
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34 WHEREAS, as an initial step toward establishing a system of
35 differentiated water toll rates for different irrigation systems
36 and for different classes of users, the establishment of an
37 implementation plan for the island of Hawaii's district
38 irrigation systems would provide opportunities to use for
39 agricultural production the currently unused water within these
40 districts on the island of Hawaii that currently flows to the
41 sea; now, therefore,
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43 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
44 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular



1 Session of 2013, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
2 Agriculture is requested to report to the Legislature on the
3 implementation of a program that establishes a system of
4 differentiated water toll rates and charges for the different
5 irrigation systems located throughout the island of Hawaii, and
6 for the different classes of users of such water, in order to
7 more fully promote the development and expansion of
8 agricultural activities and processing, including the growing
9 of agricultural crops and the production of livestock and
10 poultry on these irrigated lands; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
13 is requested to submit its report no later than twenty days
14 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
18 Board of Agriculture, the Director of Business, Economic
19 Development, and Tourism, the Director of Health, the Mayor of
20 the County of Hawaii, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors
21 of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, the President of the
22 Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and the Commander of the United
23 States Pacific Command.
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